

REMARKS

Formal entry of this responsive Amendment, which, Applicants submit, renders the application allowable, is respectfully requested. Supportive discussion follows.

Applicants note with appreciation the allowance of claim 29 and, also, the indication that dependent claim 19 is directed to allowable subject matter and that this claim would be formally allowed upon being re-presented in an appropriate self-contained format. (Page 14, items 42 and 43, of the Official Action.) Accordingly, applicants, through their undersigned representative, have decided, at this time, to cancel, also, rejected claims 15-18 and 20-28 and to re-present the objected dependent claim 19 in an allowable self-contained format, through incorporating therein the contents of the previously pending corresponding independent claim 15 and intervening claim 18.

As to all of the previously standing art rejections, under 35 USC § 102(e) and under § 103(a), they have been rendered moot with the canceling of claims 15-18 and 20-28. It is submitted, however, agreeing to the canceling of these claims should not be construed as acquiescence with regard to the merits of the previously standing art rejections directed thereto. In this regard, these claims were canceled without prejudice or disclaimer of the subject matter therein and thereby rendering the application in condition for formal allowance.

Therefore, having obviated all previously standing issues, formal entry of this Amendment as well as early allowance of the above-identified application is respectfully requested.

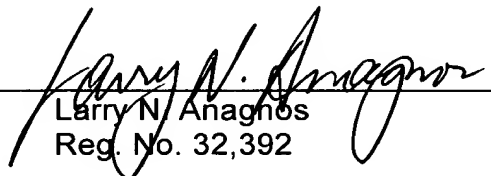
Concurrently filed herewith, also, is an Information Disclosure Statement (IDS) including a cover letter and a listing in Form PTO/SB/08A making known to the USPTO art documents that were cited in a recent Office Action by the Japanese Patent Office (JPO) with regard to the counterpart Japanese application of the present application. Acceptance/formal entry therefore of the same is respectfully requested.

To the extent necessary, Applicants petition for an extension of time under 37 CFR 1.136. Please charge any shortage in fees due in connection with the filing of this paper, including extension of time fees, to the account of Antonelli, Terry, Stout & Kraus, LLP Deposit Account No. 01-2135 (Docket No. 520.40524X00), and please credit any excess fees to such Deposit Account.

Respectfully submitted,

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By


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